

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Various Claims are amended herein. New claims 7-19 are added. Claims 1-19 are currently pending. Therefore it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in order for allowance.

II. OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAWINGS

In the Office Action, at page 2, paragraph 1, the drawings were objected to.

Therefore, in accordance with the requirements of the Examiner, replacement sheets are submitted herewith to label FIGS. 1A, 1B, 2, 6 and 7 as prior art. Therefore, all outstanding drawing objections should be resolved.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections to the drawings are respectfully requested.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-6 UNDER 35 USC 112 AS BEING INDEFINITE FOR FAILING TO POINT OUT AND DISTINCTLY CLAIM THE SUBJECT MATTER WHICH APPLICANTS REGARDS AS THE INVENTION

The claims are amended to overcome the rejection. Support for the amendments is found, for example, on page 5, line 26 – page 7, line 27 of the specification.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 4, 5, and 6 UNDER 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER TAJIRI (US 6,038,203)

Claim 1 recites an optical communications device comprising a printed circuit board; an optical element module arranged near a first side of the printed circuit board, a plurality of driving signal leads on the first surface for supplying driving signals to the optical element module; a plurality of driving signal lands on the printed circuit board and connected to a plurality of driving signal leads and a monitoring signal land connected to the monitoring signal

lead; the plurality of driving signal lands connected to the driving signal leads are arranged near the first side of the printed circuit board so as to reduce lengths of the driving signal leads; and the monitoring signal land connected to the monitoring signal lead is situated farther away from the first side of the printed circuit board than the plurality of driving signal lands connected to the plurality of driving signal leads so as to increase the physical separation between the driving signal lands.

As shown in FIG. 5, the main (driving) signal leads 50 and 51 are nearer to the first side of the printed circuit board 32, and the auxiliary (monitoring) signal lead 52 is farther from the first side of the printed circuit board 32. Furthermore, the driving signal lands connected to the main (driving) signal leads 50 and 51 are near the Laser Diode 34, and the auxiliary (monitoring) signal lead 52 is farther from the Laser Diode 34. Therefore, the main (driving) signal leads 50, 51 have reduced lengths so as to increase the physical separation between the driving signal lands.

The Examiner asserts that Tajiri discloses an optical head with photo detector comprising a printed board, a co-axial laser diode; a plurality of main signal leads; a plurality of auxiliary signal leads and plurality of lands. However, the Tajiri does not disclose a device and method as described in Claim 1 of providing a printed circuit board having a plurality of driving signal lands connected to a plurality of driving signal leads, and monitoring signal land connected to a monitoring signal lead, wherein the monitoring signal land is situated farther away from a first side of the printed circuit board than a plurality of driving signal lands connected to a plurality of driving signal leads provided on the printed circuit board, such that the physical separation of a plurality of driving signal lands is increased and the lengths of the driving signal leads are reduced as disclosed in claim 1.

Although the above comments are specifically directed to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding various differences of various other claims over the cited references.

V. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 2 AND 3 UNDER 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER TAJIRI (US 6,038,203) AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF GREULICH (US 4,817,234).

Claim 2 discloses the optical device as recited and discussed in Claim 1 above, wherein the monitoring signal land is connected to the monitoring signal lead and enclosed in an

insulating material. Claim 3 discloses the optical device as recited in claim 2 above, wherein the plurality of driving signal lands connected to the plurality of driving signal leads are enclosed in an insulating material except for the sides of the plurality of driving signal lands near a first side of the printed circuit board.

Greulich, however, discloses a vacuum cleaner comprising a touch sensitive faceplate having an elongated electrical creep path for static electric charges between said outer surface of said faceplate and a circuit board, wherein the creep path has an effective length sufficient to minimize the possibility of an electrical breakdown between said outer surface and said circuit board due to said electrical charges. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the invention disclosed by Greulich does not teach the device disclosed in claims 2 and 3.

VI. CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached replacement sheets are provided to label FIGS. 1A, 1B, 2, 6, AND 7 as "Prior Art." No other changes were made.